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Deadline nears for Rick Bass/Montana Prize for Fiction

Submissions are due Sept. 15 for the inaugural Rick Bass/Montana Prize for Fiction, sponsored by the *Whitefish Review*. Renowned Montana author Bass, a winner of O. Henry Awards, Pushcart Prizes, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, will serve as the judge for the prize.

Writers may submit previously unpublished stories under 5,000 words per entry. First place winner of the fiction prize will receive \$1,000 and be published in issue no. 16 of the magazine, to be released in December. Runners-up and finalists may also be considered for publication. There is a \$15 fee to submit entries for the fiction prize.

Featuring established and emerging authors and artists, *Whitefish Review* weaves a diverse mix of stories, interviews and conversations along with a 16-page color art section. It is published twice a year, in December and June.

Submissions for the next regular reading period do not carry a fee and are accepted through Oct. 1. All submissions are accepted via an online submission manager at www.WhitefishReview.org. For full guidelines, visit the website.

LITERARY LANDSCAPE

Montana Festival of the Book celebrates 15th year

The 15th annual Humanities Montana Festival of the Book celebrates the literature of the West Oct. 9-11 in downtown Missoula. More than 50 authors are slated to attend, including James Lee Burke, Pete Fromm, Walter Kirn, Benjamin Percy, Carrie LaSeur, Gwen Florio, Greg Patent and Keith McCafferty.

Two days and three nights of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainment, receptions, and other special events are on tap. Venues in-

clude the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park, the Missoula Art Museum, Radius Gallery, the Wilma Theatre, the Top Hat Lounge, Montgomery Distillery, the Roxy Theater, and the Missoula Public Library. All events are open to the public and most are free.

The Festival of the Book is one of the biggest cultural events in the Northwest. This year's offerings include a special edition of the popular storytelling event, Tell Us Something; the sixth annual Festival Poetry Slam; the annual Readers and Writers Reception; an

author luncheon; and a 15th anniversary Gala Reading Celebration. The gala will include the greatest hits from the last 15 years, with readers announced in coming weeks.

Major 2014 festival sponsors include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Community Medical Center, Montana Public Radio, the Montana Radio Company, Radius Gallery, and the *Missoulian*.

For more information, call 243-6022 or visit humanitiesmontana.org.

“Border Crossing” is theme for High Plains BookFest

Authors from eight states and three Canadian providences will gather in Billings Oct. 23-25 for the High Plains BookFest and High Plains Book Awards presented by The Writer's Voice and the Billings Public Library.

“Border Crossing” is the theme for the 12th annual gathering, which takes place at various venues in downtown Billings and includes readings by invited Canadian writers and High Plains Book Award finalists, panel discussions, the Montana Poetry Slam and more.

Keynote guests Melanie Rae Thon, Julianne Couch and Sheryl Noethe read from their works at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Yellowstone Art Museum, which also hosts Saturday's book awards banquet.

Readings and panel discussions also take place at the Western Heritage Center and Billings Public Library.

Book Award finalists who are participating in the festival include:

- Fiction: Russell Rowland – *High and Inside*; and Larry Watson – *Let Him Go*
- Nonfiction: James E. Mueller – *Shooting Arrows and Slinging Mud*; and Julianne Couch – *Traveling the Power Line: From the Mojave Desert to the Bay of Fundy*.
- Poetry: Sheryl Noethe – *Grey Dog Big Sky*.
- First Book: Giano Cromley – *The Last Good Halloween*; Gwen Florio – *Montana*; and Barbara Joyce-Hawryluk – *Wounded*.
- Woman Writer: Kim McCullough – *Clearwater*; Dawn Wink – *Meadowlark: A Novel*; and Joyce-Hawryluk.
- Art and Photography: David Stark and Nancy Warner – *This Place, These People*.
- Short Stories: Nina McConigley – *Cowboys and East Indians*; and Steven Schwartz – *Little Raw Souls*.
- Young Adult Book: Blythe Woolston – *Black Helicopters*; Marty Chan – *The Ehrich*

Weisz Chronicles: Demon Gate; Beth Goobie – *The Throne*.

• Children's Book: Marion Mutala – *Baba's Babushka: A Magical Ukranian Wedding*; and Alison Lohans – *Leaving Mr. Humphries*.

• Medicine and Science: Doug Peacock – *In the Shadow of the Sabertooth*.

The Billings Public Library established the High Plains Book Awards in 2006 to recognize regional authors and/or literary works which examine and reflect life on the High Plains. From two awards, the list has grown to nine, including two new categories this year: Best Children's Book and Best Book in Science and Medicine. Winners in each category receive \$500.

Tickets to the award banquet may be purchased by calling Connie Dillon at 256-0625.

A complete list of this year's finalists and past winners can be found at: www.highplainsbookawards.org.

Humanities Montana awards round of grants

Humanities Montana awarded \$18,058 to organizations and communities across Montana for programs ranging from book discussion groups and festivals to storytelling series, oral history projects, and significant history exhibits.

• **Mullan Road Conference**, Friends of Two Rivers, Milltown: \$1,000 to support the annual conference May 2-4, which celebrates the Mullan Road and its key role in the development of Missoula.

• **“In the Crucible of Change” Filmed Oral Histories**, Montana Tech Highlands College, Butte: \$5,000 to for an oral history project that will film and distribute the story of Montana's change from a “corporate colony” to a state filled with empowered people.

• **“The Medicine Tree: A Catalyst for Dialogue,”** Bitterroot College UM, Hamilton: \$4,984 for a program to promote a better understanding and awareness of Salish culture and Montana history in the Bitterroot Valley.

• **“Nez Perce Trail Traveling Exhibit: Celebrating the Trail and the People,”** Ravalli County Museum, Hamilton: \$3,399 for the opening of the exhibition highlighting the rich history and living culture of the Nez Perce tribe.

• **Wiki Write 2014**, June 14 and July 19 in Billings and June 28 and July 12 in Bozeman: \$1,000 for workshops that teach people state and local history, as well the workings of the online resource Wikipedia.

• **Wedsworth Book Discussion group** at the library in Cascade: \$900 for a monthly reading and discussion group featuring classic and contemporary novels that spans eight months.

• **Distinguished Lecture in Native American Literature: Dick Littlebear**, April 2 at Carroll College, Helena: \$775 for the biennial lecture series.

• **Museums Association of Montana Annual Conference**, March 20-22 in Helena: \$1,000 for the annual conference and workshop seminar.

For more information, visit humanitiesmontana.org.

MONTANA POET LAUREATE

Liar

By Tami Haaland

From *When We Wake in the Night*

He yells it before she slams the car door.
“I’ll walk home” she says to the closed window.

We finish her story in our own car.
In my version, she’ll go to the corner,
he’ll speed around the block, feel guilty,
return, and insist she get in.

In Irena’s version he’ll go where he’s going.
She’ll have to get there another way,
hitch hiking maybe or a long walk.

The ending is the same and we both know it,
the way we know there are only so many stories,
perfectly formed, and they enter us
each time in shadowy variation.

Or maybe there are as many stories
as stars and we don’t see them until long
after they begin to shine, our recognition that dim.

It’s summer. Our windows are down. This is
earlier in our lives and the wind whips our long hair.
We are the kind of women they joke about,
another kind of story, the blonds so dumb.

But we are smart enough to guess how this story
will end for the girl, smart enough to know
that if we keep on driving maybe

there’s a better version up ahead just waiting
to pull its comb through our tangled hair.



Tami Haaland